

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

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53

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 EUR-25 PM-09 NSC-10 SS-15 RSC-01 L-03

IO-12 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-03 USIA-12

PRS-01 ACDA-19 NIC-01 RSR-01 /141 W
----- 114323

R 050830 Z APR 73

FM AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 687

INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

AMEMBASSY ROME

COMIDEASTFOR

CINCLANT

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOGADISCIO 0459

CINCLANT FOC POLAD

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PBOR MOPS SO ET

SUBJ: IL 28' S MOVED TO MOGADISCIO

REF: MOGADISCIO 0451

1. FOUR SOVIET IL 28 BOMBERS RECENTLY DELIVERED TO SOMALIS IN HARGEISA WERE FLOWN TO MOGADISCIO MARCH 31. AIRCRAFT DID NOT OPERATE LOCALLY UNTIL MORNING OF APRIL 4 WHEN SEVERAL SINGLE- AIRCRAFT FLIGHTS OCCURRED OVER MOGADISCIO.

2. DURING PAST WEEK NEW ANTI- AIRCRAFT BATTERIES HAVE BEEN INSTALLED TO SUPPLEMENT THE PREVIOUS TWO BATTERIES WHICH PROTECTED NEW MILITARY HEADQUARTERS NORTHWEST OF MOGADISCIO. NEW BATTERIES ARE LOCATED TO WEST OF CITY, PRESUMABLY TO PROTECT AIRPORT, FROM WHICH BOTH CIVILIAN AND MILITARY AIRCRAFT OPEATE.

3. COMMENT: SOMALI MOTIVE FOR MOVING BOMBERS TO MOGADISCIO IS UNCLEAR. ON ONE HAND, THEY NOW UNABLE COVER IEG DIVISIONAL
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HQ AROUND DIRE DAWA, WHICH PRESUMABLY WAS THEIR PRIMARY TAC-
GET. ON OTHER HAND, AIRCRAFT IN MOGADISCIO ARE FAR LESS
EXPOSED TO EOTIOPIAN ATTACK THAN IN HARGEISA WHICH ONLY 30
MILES FROM ETHIOPIAN BORDER. MOGADISCIO LOCATION ALSO PER-
MITS BOMBERS TO STRIKE TARGETS NEAR SOUTHERN OGADEN BORDER,
WHICH NOT POSSIBLE FROM HARGEISA UNLESS SOMALIS WILLING FLY
LONG EXPOSED FLIGHT OVER ETHIOPIAN TERRITORY.
LOORAM

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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

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To: ADDIS ABABA
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COMIDEASTFOR
NAIROBI
ROME
SECSTATE WASHDC

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